

Town Council Meeting September 11th, 2006



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

MINUTES

Call to Order: Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. Present were Councilmembers Tony Altar, Peter Benjamin, Karol Soltan, and Hans Wegner. Also present was Town Administrator Pratt, Margaret Soltan from the *Bugle*, and a number of Town residents.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

Presentations by Citizens: Resident Charlie Snyder spoke to the Council regarding a water main break in front of his home at 10910 Montrose Avenue. He explained that this is the same area where there were 2 4 previous major breaks, and that he believes the cause is lack of proper separation between the water main and the new culvert that the State Highway Administration (SHA) installed as part of the Strathmore Avenue reconstruction project. In addition, he would like the stone retaining wall that shored up the bank between his property and Montrose Avenue to be restored. Mr. Snyder asked that the Town write a letter to SHA and to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) demanding that a proper repair be made to correct this problem in order to avoid continuing leaks and possible major breaks in the future. Councilmember Altar suggested that Councilmember Wegner and Mayor Shawaker draft a letter for the Mayor to send. Councilmember Benjamin pointed out that the letter should be limited to describing the problem and should ask for a permanent repair.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Shawaker reported that she had been reappointed to the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee and had attended this year's first meeting of the committee last Wednesday. Mayor Shawaker also announced that the Montgomery County MML Chapter would be hosting a meeting on the recently enacted HD 1232 on Thursday, September 21st, to discuss the implications of the new zoning authority it has granted to Montgomery County municipalities.

Committee Reports:

Parks and open Space Committee: Former Councilmember Chris Keller reported on behalf of the Parks and Open Space Committee regarding the Committee Meeting on Friday, September 8th and a public forum held the following Saturday,

both in Cambria Park. The two meetings were to discuss the draft plan for improving drainage and pedestrian safety in the park and surrounding area that would be submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a Project Open Space grant once the project was finalized. One of the key elements was the extension of the sidewalk from the Cambria playground to Strathmore Avenue to significantly enhance pedestrian safety for access to both Cambria Park and the swimming pool.

Councilmember's Reports

- Penn Place Maintenance & Repair – Councilmember Altar reported on the inspection of Penn Place, the building and immediate area around it, that he, the Mayor, and Harry Gordon had carried out. A list of items needing attention was developed and was then discussed with Administrator Pratt, who will work with Superintendent Frost to see that needed repairs and improvements are completed – preferably by November.
- Penn Place Parking Committee – Councilmember Soltan informed the Council that the committee intended to present a report at the Council's November meeting. The report will begin with a presentation of the plan adopted by the Council in February 2005. There are three primary elements to be considered: the sidewalk along the west side of Rokeby Avenue, the divider between Rokeby Avenue traffic lanes in the parking area, and the turnaround at the northern end of the parking area. The pros and cons of designs for each element will be discussed separately as each element could be built separately. Sketches of alternative layouts will most likely be presented, as well.

Approval of Minutes:

- Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**
That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting on 07/10/06 be approved as distributed. Councilmember Wegner seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.
- Councilmember Altar **MOVED**
That the minutes of the Town Council Special Council Meeting on 08/01/06 be approved as corrected. Councilmember Soltan seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously.

Action/Discussion:

- Amending Section 109. Exception to General Exemption of the Garrett Park Code of Ordinances – Mayor Shawaker discussed with the Council adding sections of the Montgomery County Code *Chapter 31. Motor Vehicles & Traffic* as an exception to the general exemption from county ordinances in the Garrett Park Code, Chapter One. The Mayor noted that several municipalities within the county had done so already. Councilmember Benjamin noted potential problems with Town regulation of speed limits or parking if the chapter were adopted in whole. After discussion no action was requested or taken.

- Authority to Award the Capital Assets Survey and Capital Plan Contract – Councilmember Benjamin asked that the Council grant to the Mayor and himself the authority to award the contract for the Capital Assets Survey and Capital Plan Development consulting engineer. He noted that four firms had submitted proposals and that he, the Mayor, and the Town Administrator had interviewed representatives from each firm and would be discussing the proposals with the Council in the executive session that would immediately follow the regular meeting. After a brief discussion, Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That Mayor Shawaker and Councilmember Benjamin be given the authority to award the contract for the Capital Assets Survey and Capital Plan Development consulting engineer, consistent with the decision of the Council in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Hans Wegner and **PASSED** unanimously.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Town Administrator Pratt reported on efforts to reduce energy use at Penn Place & Town Hall, noting the switch to fluorescent bulbs wherever possible and ongoing modifications to the Penn Place Plaza Level HVAC air flow being performed by the original installer.
- Town Administrator Pratt presented the draft FY 2006 Summary Report and the July/August Financial Report.

Adjournment: At 9:40 PM Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the Town Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a contract matter immediately after the adjournment of the regular meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wegner and **PASSED** unanimously. The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[TOWN SEAL]

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer